

**REMARKS**

This amendment is submitted in response to the first Office Action dated March 12, 2004. Claims 1-27 are pending in the application. Claims 4, 5, 9, 14, 18, 20, and 21 have been canceled. Claims 1, 6, 7, 15, 19, 22, and 25-27 have been amended. New claims 28-31 have been added. Claims 1-3, 6-8, 10-13, 15-17, 19, and 22-31 remain in the application.

The objections to claims 22, 25, and 26 have been addressed by drafting claim 22 in independent form, and changing the dependency of claims 25 and 26 which now depend from amended claim 22.

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowability of claims 7-9, 15, 16, and 21-24. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 9 and the intervening claims. Claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form and includes the subject matter of claim 1 and the intervening claim 4. Claim 15 has been rewritten in independent form and includes the subject matter of claim 1 and the intervening claim 14.

Claim 19 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 21 and the intervening claim 20. Claim 22 has been rewritten in independent form and includes the subject matter of claim 19.

The previously pending dependent claims and the new claims now depend from allowable claims 1, 7, 15, and 22 and should be allowable for the same reasons that the amended independent claims are allowable.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

We believe that we have appropriately provided for fees due in connection with this submission. However, if there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this Response, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-1945, under Order No. PPCO-P01-017 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Application No.: 10/053,341

Docket No.: PPCO-P01-017

Dated: July 8, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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